

Wildlife Restoration MULTI-YEAR GRANT INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Restoration Grant

GRANT NUMBER: AKW-D-7-2021

PROJECT NUMBER: Project 1.0

PROJECT TITLE: Starrigavan Watershed Rehabilitation and Recreation Enhancements

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: November 20, 2020–December 31, 2022

PERFORMANCE YEAR: November 20, 2020–September 30, 2021

REPORT DUE DATE: December 29, 2021

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

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Authorities: 2 CFR 200.328
2 CFR 200.301
50 CFR 80.

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING PERFORMANCE YEAR

OBJECTIVE 1:

TRACS Strategy: Direct Habitat and Species Management

Standard Objective: Directly restore, enhance, create, or manage 0.5 mile by 2022.

Activity Tag 1: Stream Modification

Starrigavan Creek is an anadromous salmon creek that intersects the USFS Starrigavan trail system. The project must first restore the creek before repairing the washed-out trail and culverts to reopen access to the Starrigavan trail system and watershed for hunting, trapping, and public recreational use.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Total station topographic surveys were completed for entire project area during the last performance period (early October 2020). Designs and contract drawings for restoration of stream channel, four culverts (with aquatic organism passage) and nearly 1000' of washed out trail were completed between November 2020 and January 2021. NEPA for a suite of recreation and restoration projects within the Starrigavan watershed, including those funded under this grant, was initiated in Fall of 2020 and was signed on January 15, 2021. Contract packages including cost estimates, final drawings and specifications, environmental controls and State and Federal permitting were completed and acquired between February and March 2021. Final contract was put out for bid in mid-March 2021 but almost immediately, responding contractors informed the USFS they could not receive culverts until mid-June. This delay, due to Covid related production and shipping, would not allow enough time to complete all instream work within the construction fish timing window (May 15-July 15, 2021). After talking with all internal and external partners, it was determined the best course of action was to pull the contract and readvertise in late fall 2021 for a 2022 construction window. Site visits were conducted in late September 2021 to check on survey staking and verify on the ground conditions had not changed since the previous site visit.

OBJECTIVE 2:

TRACS Strategy: Facilities/Areas O&M

Standard Objective: Level the surface and expand the existing parking area to accommodate additional parking space so that safety hazards are minimized.

Activity Tag 1: Public Access Areas

An additional objective is to improve Starrigavan trailhead access and safety by improving and expanding the existing parking area. Hunters parking at this trailhead are targeting blacktail deer, bear, and mountain goat.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Total station topographic surveys and NEPA for the design elements of Objective 2 were completed during this performance period (completed at the same time as those mentioned in Objective 1 accomplishments above). Final design for the new parking area and trailhead access improvements are scheduled for August-September 2022 upon completion of work under Objective 1 since some modification to the existing parking area will occur due to staging of equipment and machine access for Objective 1 work. Once final designs are complete, final cost estimates and contract packages will be completed in October-November 2022 and contract solicitation occurring in early December 2022 for implementation in summer 2023.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON PROJECT TO DATE.

All NEPA, surveys, design and contract preparation and solicitation for Phase 1 (Objective 1) projects have been completed. USFS expects contract award in mid-December 2021, with implementation and Objective 1 completion by the end of July 2022. All NEPA and surveys are completed for Phase 2 (Objective 2). USFS has scheduled final design and contracting, solicitation and award for Fall/Winter 2022 with anticipated completion of all work by Fall of 2023.

III. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.

N/A.

IV. PUBLICATIONS



Figure 1.–Total station survey of landslide impacted areas.

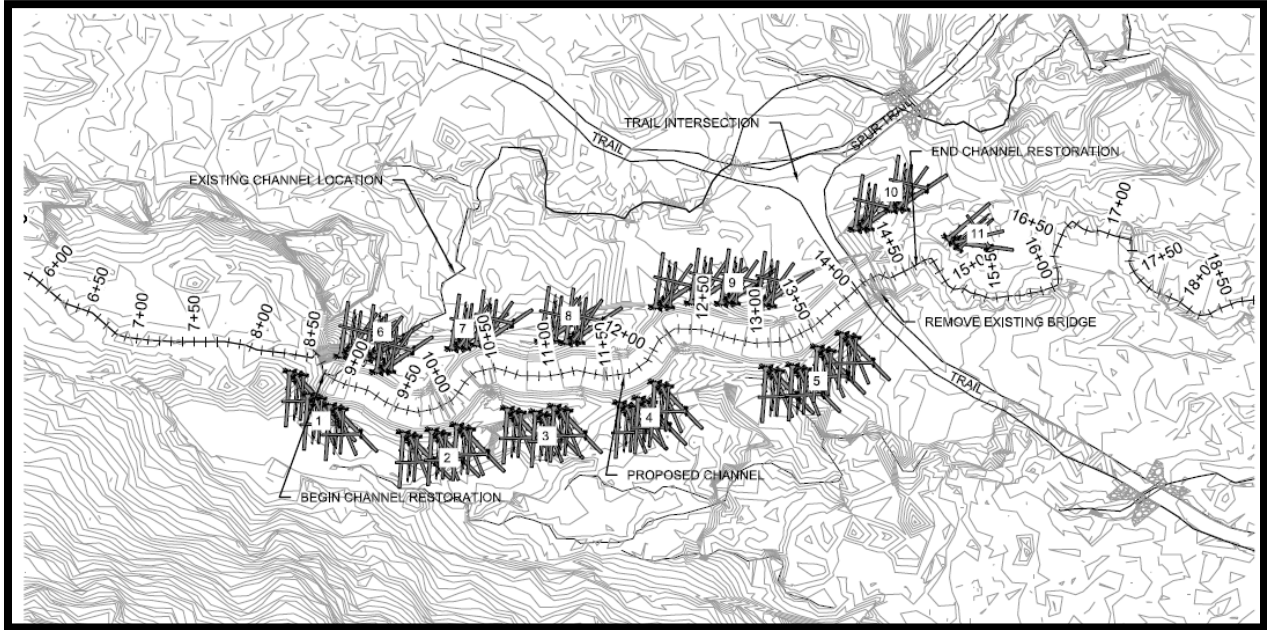


Figure 2.—Stream topographic survey and restoration design.

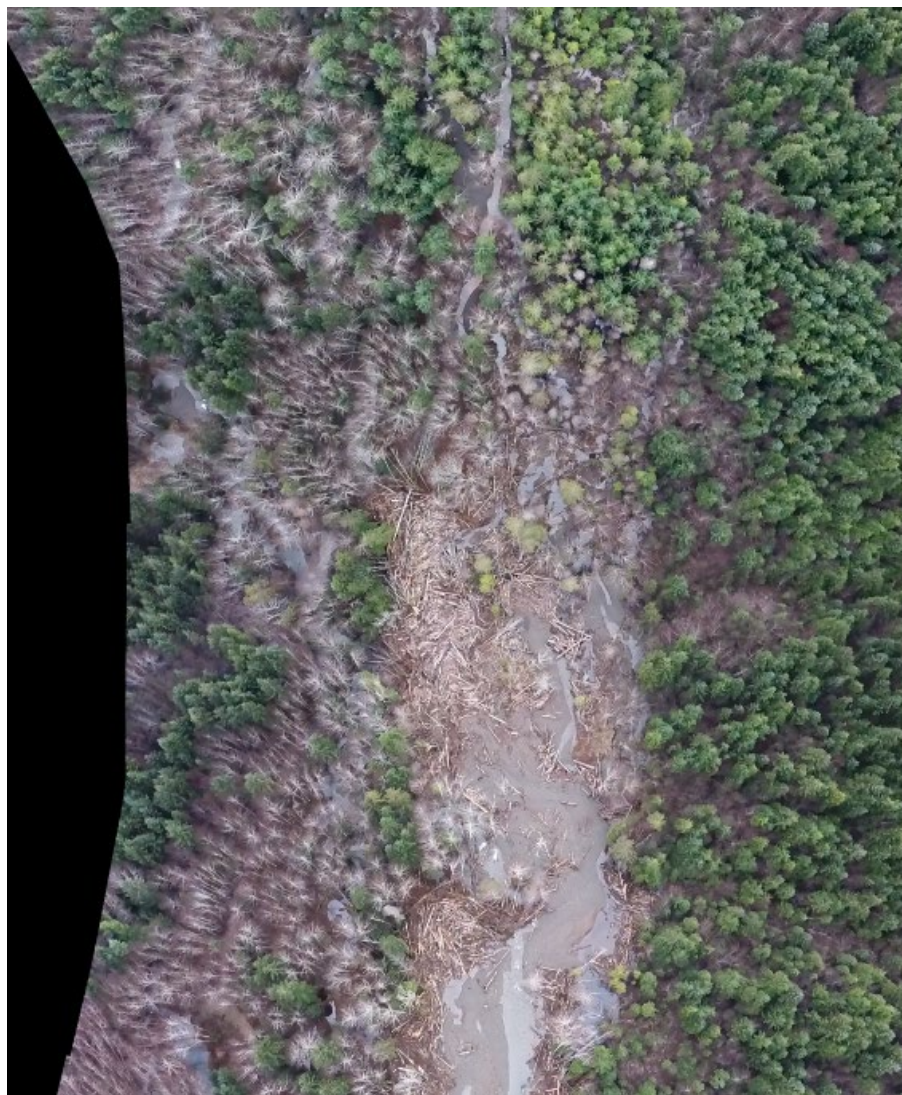


Figure 3.–Low level photography monitoring of landslide.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

None at this time.

Prepared by:

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Martin Becker, USDA Forest Service Sitka Ranger District

Date: December 7, 2021